

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<u>Applicant:</u>	Mitsuhiro KURANO	<u>Examiner:</u>	(To be assigned)
<u>Ser. No.:</u>	(To be assigned)	<u>Art Group:</u>	(To be assigned)
<u>Title:</u>	DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING SAME		
<u>Filed:</u>	14 August 2006	<u>Date:</u>	14 August 2006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is filed as a part of the national stage entry of PCT application PCT/JP2004/001564, which was filed on 13 February 2004. The fees for the claims should be calculated based on the claims remaining after the entry of this Preliminary Amendment, which results in 20 total and 2 independent claims. Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION – begin on page 2 and are reflected in the substitute specification submitted herewith in clean copy and marked-up copy versions.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS - are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS – begin on page 6.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS – begin on page 7.